<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

1.-20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently amended) A method of providing computer resource access rights to a process, comprising:

  providing a memory storing meta-data, the meta-data defining resource access
    rights of the process and initially having a null value in a field;
  receiving a request from the process to authenticate a user;
  authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process; and
  responsive to a positive authentication of the user, altering the meta-data in the
    memory by substituting the null value in the field with an identification of
    the user, the substitution providing ~~to provide~~ the process with a set of
    resource access rights defined for the process.

22.-23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process comprises:

  providing the user with a first value;
  receiving a user identification and a second value from the process, the second
    value generated responsive to the first value and a password provided by
    the user;
  identifying a password associated with the received user identification;
  generating a third value from the first value and the password associated with the
    received user identification; and
  positively authenticating the user if the generated third value matches the received
    second value.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein generating the third value from the first value and the password associated with the received user identification comprises:

applying a hash function to the first value and the password associated with the received user identification.

26.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21,

wherein the memory stores a directory path; and

further comprising:

responsive to the positive authentication of the user, providing the process with resource access rights to one or more resources located in a directory within the directory path, the directory being designated by the altered meta-data.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

storing data in the memory indicating that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

28.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

responsive to receiving a user identification from the user, verifying that the data in the memory indicates that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

29.   (Currently amended) A system for providing computer resource access rights to a process, comprising:

a memory for storing meta-data, the meta-data defining resource access rights of the process and initially having a null value in a field;

an interface module for receiving a request from the process to authenticate a user;

a validation module for authenticating the user responsive to the request from the process; and

a security module for altering, responsive to a positive authentication of the user, the meta-data in the memory <u>by substituting the null value in the field with an identification of the user, the substitution providing</u> <s>to provide</s> the process with <u>a set of</u> resource access rights defined for the process.

30.-31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

provide the user with a first value;

receive a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value generated responsive to the first value and a password provided by the user;

identify a password associated with the received user identification;

generate a third value from the first value and the password associated with the received user identification; and

positively authenticate the user if the generated third value matches the received second value.

33.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the validation module is adapted to generate the third value by:

applying a hash function to the first value and the password associated with the received user identification.

34.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 29,

wherein the memory is adapted to store a directory path; and

wherein the security module is adapted to:

provide, responsive to the positive authentication of the user, the process with resource access rights to one or more resources located in a directory within the directory path, the directory being designated by the altered meta-data.

35.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the memory is adapted to:

    store data indicating that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

36.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

    verify, responsive to receiving a user identification from the user, that the data in
        the memory indicates that the process has made a request to authenticate
        the user.

37.   (Currently amended) A computer program product having a computer-readable medium having embodied thereon program code for providing computer resource access rights to a process, the program code comprising:

    a memory module for storing meta-data, the meta-data defining resource access
        rights of the process and initially having a null value in a field;
    an interface module for receiving a request from the process to authenticate a user;
    a validation module for authenticating the user responsive to the request from the
        process; and
    a security module for altering, responsive to a positive authentication of the user,
        the meta-data in the memory module by substituting the null value in the
        field with an identification of the user, the substitution providing to provide
        the process with a set of resource access rights defined for the process.

38.-39.   (Cancelled)

40.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the validation module is adapted to:

    provide the user with a first value;

receive a user identification and a second value from the process, the second value
generated responsive to the first value and a password provided by the
user;

identify a password associated with the received user identification;

generate a third value from the first value and the password associated with the
received user identification; and

positively authenticate the user if the generated third value matches the received
second value.

41.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein
the validation module is adapted to generate the third value by:

applying a hash function to the first value and the password associated with the
received user identification.

42.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 37,
wherein the memory module is adapted to store a directory path; and
wherein the security module is adapted to:

provide, responsive to the positive authentication of the user, the process
with resource access rights to one or more resources located in a
directory within the directory path, the directory being designated
by the altered meta-data.

43.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein
the memory module is adapted to:

store data indicating that the process has made a request to authenticate the user.

44.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 43, wherein
the validation module is adapted to:

verify, responsive to receiving a user identification from the user, that the data in
the memory module indicates that the process has made a request to
authenticate the user.